

11 August 1945

MEMBERS OF THE GRADUATING CLASS:

I am happy to be with you on this occasion, not only because I can share in your happiness on this, your graduation day, but particularly because from the very beginning, I have followed closely and with great interest the magnificent work performed since Leyte by Major Lambert and the members of his staff in the creation of a dependable Censorship Detachment which would work very closely with the Military Censorship Detachment of the U. S. Army in the Philippines.

Allow me to congratulate you upon the completion of your studies. I desire to warn you, however, that your work in the future will not be entirely devoid of difficulties and temptations. Try to do your work to the very best of your ability and make an effort always to surpass the expectations of your superiors. Your responsibility will be great and you must never violate the confidence Major Lambert and your other officers have placed upon you. Bear in mind that the Philippines to-day is a strategic center in which spies roam and are ready to pass information on to the enemy. Your duty will be to prevent that this information be given either willingly or unwillingly. Your work will be one of trust and you should maintain it unblemished and beyond reproach at all times.

Many of you have lost your husbands, your children, relatives, and others held dear to your hearts. You have also suffered not only from hunger but from the very cruel and brutal hands of the invader. You have seen your dear ones thrown into

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Fort Santiago and subjected to inhuman torture for days, weeks, and months, kept with insufficient food, only to be beheaded or shot in the end. You paid dearly for your loyalty to the United States and to the Commonwealth of the Philippines. I share your sorrows with you. I myself have suffered too. My brother and my nephew and many of my officers who were close to me have been killed by the Japanese after a period of torture and sacrifice. They were soldiers in uniform performing their duties. You were soldiers too, but in civilian clothes performing your solemn duty of maintaining inviolate your great faith in America. You waited patiently for three seemingly endless years, but your faith never faltered. You knew that at the end victory would be ours and you stood fast suffering untold privations with patience and abnegation. May God ever bless you!

I have been informed that you have organized among yourselves, an Employees Welfare Association already consisting of almost eight hundred members. Keep it up for that spirit of comradeship that permeates your Association serves as a strong tie that will bind you all into a big family of which you can always be proud. Remember that in unity there is strength and only by being together will you be able to accomplish great things. Keep solidly united and continue to do with honesty and honor the work you are expected to do, and maintain untarnished your loyalty to your superiors and to those two flags that constitute the symbol of democracy and the protection of our rights to live in peace, in liberty, and in the pursuit of happiness.

BASILIO J. VALDES
Major-General, PA
Chief of Staff

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